A BABY IN A MANGER

Luke 2:1–20

Key Verse: 2:12

1. Who was Caesar Augustus, what was his decree and its purpose, and what was “the entire Roman world”? (1) How did Caesar’s decree affect people? (3)
2. How is Bethlehem described? (4a,11a) What is the significance that it was “the town of David”? (1:32,69) How far is it from Nazareth? Why did Joseph have to go there during the census, and how was God working in this? (4b)
3. How is Mary described, and what does this imply? (5) Why would she have made this journey with Joseph so late in her pregnancy? What details show the humility of Jesus’ birth? (6–7) How is his manger in Bethlehem a stark contrast to Caesar in Rome?
4. Who else is mentioned, and what were they doing? (8) What happened, and how did they respond? (9) Of all people, why do you think God sent his angel to them? (1:50)
5. How did the angel reassure them? (10) What is the significance that this good news would cause great joy “for all the people”? What does it mean that Jesus is our Savior? (11; cf. 1:69,71,77) “The Messiah” and “the Lord”? (1:33; Isa9:6,7)
6. Read verse 12. Why would “a baby…in a manger” be “a sign”? What does it tell us about God and his ways of working? (1:51–53) Why do we need the eyes of faith to see what God is doing? How does Jesus’ manger challenge our values and life goals?
7. Who suddenly appeared, and what were they doing? (13,14) Why do you think this happened? How does the birth of Jesus bring glory to God? Peace to people? Why is it only “to those on whom his favor rests”?
8. How did the shepherds respond to this experience, and what did they find? (15,16) Why did they spread the word, and how did people respond? (17,18) What can we learn from them? How did Mary respond, and why? (19) What did the shepherds do, and why? (20)